

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to allowing motorized vehicles on DNR lands near Red Mountain and Sumas Mountain.

First of all, as residents/property owners at the base of Red Mountain off South Pass Road, it came as quite a surprise to my family and extended family/neighbors to recently hear that Red Mountain was one of the proposed sites for an ORV park. The proposed park would be 200 feet from my sister-in-law's property line, and we estimate the park would be about 500-700 feet from ours. I am shocked and somewhat suspicious that as some of the people that would be most affected by this proposal, we have never been notified by anyone from DNR. We have only recently heard of this proposal by word of mouth from our neighbors in the Foothills Community.

A primary concern is the fire hazard from the ORVs. We have had very dry summers the past several years and with our houses being so close to the mountain, it is of great concern that a fire would be literal devastation to the homes and structures located so close to the mountain.

Another issue that also does not seem to be adequately considered is the noise. Our small area was not structured to implement such a park, with houses so close to the proposed site and a valley where noise travels freely. The noise would be unacceptable for this rural community.

Finally, what is the environmental impact of an ORV park in the proposed areas? We have yet to see an Environmental Impact Study from DNR for the proposed sites. If any information is available, our community should have a right to review the results of such studies.

Should all of these things not be fully vetted out BEFORE making a proposal??? This proposal seems in direct conflict with DNR's own mission statement "...to ensure environmental protection, public safety...and a rich quality of life." As an entity who is entrusted with preserving forests, water, and habitat, it seems ironic that this proposal has gotten this far in such a location. As an attorney, I am curious to know how DNR can reconcile such an incomplete proposal in these areas with its own mission statement.

I am a resident of Whatcom County. I live in Bellingham. I strongly oppose allowing Off- Road Vehicles in the forested lands of our county. The noise and loss of habitat and natural enjoyment for hikers, walkers, and birders and others of us who like to get out in nature is too much of a loss for our county. We are a center in the PNW for hiking and outdoor enjoyment of nature in its quiet form.

Please vote against this horrid encroachment in our forests.

As a 40 year Whatcom County resident and landowner, I am writing to state my opposition to

changing regulations to allow ORVs on DNR lands. I live on the Nooksack River, where ORVs are prohibited, yet that doesn't stop users from tearing up the gravel bars and riding through spawning streams. One ORV on the river sounds like a rally race in the valley. If DNR lands are opened to ORVs, they will have gone from multiple use to single use because hikers, horseback riders and other groups will no longer choose to use them. I have hiked on Forest Service trails that are open to dirt bikes and have seen the damage instilled by careless riders that have never seen a trail they didn't veer from or an alpine meadow they couldn't despoil. My interactions with riders have left me with no respect for this user group or their "hobby."

I am also a teacher at Kendall Elementary. We watch the eagles, hawks and trumpeter swans from our playground and go on walks to listen and watch for other wildlife. The thought of the noise brought by this activity and habitat destruction that will ensue makes me angry. This proposal is so at odds with what makes Whatcom County a beautiful place to live and raise children.

My husband is a first responder so I know how stretched emergency services are in rural Whatcom County.

I could go on for many paragraphs about the negative repercussions this senseless regulation change would bring about but I will simply say, I can think of no good reason to make this change. ORV users are definitely a minority user group and they have caused enough damage as it is. The DNR does not have the staff to enforce any meaningful laws pertaining to this group so it will be left to local residents and already overstretched county agencies to clean up garbage and confront users when they are off trails or simply being irresponsible. This proposal makes no sense.

This letter is in opposition to the proposed ORV plans for PL 2018-0004.

I live here in Echo Valley between Red and Black Mountains and about 1 mile from the Silver Lake Park entrance. The fragile characteristic of this valley is already stressed with gravel trucks, logging trucks and seasonal park visitors. I am afraid that any additional traffic and noise would destroy the very unique nature of this area.

Approval of the DNR's request for a zoning amendment would go directly against the PDS Mission Statement. The problems with an ORV trail as mentioned in this letter will support my opposition and are listed below:

1. Safety issues. ORVs encountering hikers, horses, etc. could have extremely negative results.
2. Displacement of wildlife. We always get an influx of cougars, bobcats, and bears anytime there's a large logging operation.

3. Noise pollution. We already get loud noise associated with quarry and logging operations. We deal with this as “necessary” noise. And it’s infrequent.
4. Degradation of the hillsides. Erosion, trash drops, possible fire hazard. Who is going to stop people from going off trail?
5. Physical pollution (people dumping beds, couches, kitchen garbage, etc.)
6. Potentially unsafe: law breakers, fire arms discharge, and fire? No cell service up here. Emergences would be poorly addressed.
7. Maintenance and up-keep.
8. ORV’s not in compliance with safety requirements. Modified ORVs, in all likelihood, will have their spark arrestors removed.
9. Vandalism issues.

We already see evidence of these issues where ORVs are operated.

A lot of people live here within close proximity of the proposed trail and those I’ve spoken with are of the same mind. We don’t see any benefits, but we do see a lot of negatives.

The current zoning should remain as is, and not modified to accommodate special interest groups. Rezoning would forever alter the character of this area to the negative.

Thanks so much for your consideration of adding off road vehicle access and use in Whatcom county. As a Bellingham resident my entire family supports this use of DNR lands. We are hikers, backpackers, mountain-bikers, and dual sport/dirt bike and four wheeler riders. We ride respectfully and support and encourage others to do the same in order to maintain/increase access.

We all need to get outside and enjoy the real world. Please continue to increase orv access for places for people to get outside and away from video games and TVs.

First off I would like to say I do own and operate an ORV, and I oppose zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004, to allow motorized trails systems on DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County. I have lived at the base of Red Mountain since 1974. It has been mostly peaceful. The occasional logging which the chainsaws resonate for long distances, I can't imagine MANY ORV's and the sound all year long.

We have had people actually drive onto our property and try to set up camp. People assuming our driveway is a logging road and we have to go ask them to leave. We have no Trespassing Signs up but that does not seem to deter people. I can only imagine what it would be like with many more people coming to this area to ride there ORV's and “getting lost”.

I am concerned with the impact on the wildlife and environmental impacts this will have on our community, some people are disrespectful of land, property and signs. They think there little bit of garbage, impact, etc won't hurt, only it all adds up.

I am a resident of Bellingham WA. Today I received an email about the possible zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004 to allow motorized trail systems on DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County. With deep thought and research into this matter I am highly concerned and surprised that this is even on the table for consideration in our beautiful Whatcom County.

I strongly oppose the zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004 to allow motorized trails systems on DNR commercial forest land here in Whatcom County. I hope and trust that you will work on this with the peoples feedback in mind.

Please DO NOT allow the DNR to rezone all of Whatcom County to allow motorized ORV trails on commercial forest lands. This would be dangerous, irresponsible and unethical, creating extreme fire danger, harm to the ecosystem and noise pollution.

I have lived in the east county near Van Zandt off Highway 9 for 40 years. My address is

I'm strongly opposed to DNR's proposal for a zoning change to allow offroad vehicles (ORV) on areas of DNR lands in Whatcom County. DNR's proposal to rezone commercial forest land to allow motorized trails in our county for ORV use *does not warrant further consideration by the Whatcom County Council, so please halt this process now.*

Here are some of the many reasons for halting the rezoning that DNR asks for:

- fire risk in an increasingly drought-prone county because of climate change;
- the lack of cell coverage in much of the DNR lands that would allow reports of fire or accident;
- the scarcity of personnel from our volunteer fire departments that can respond to accidents in the hills;
- the serious shortage of law enforcement resources in the east county;
- the draw of our pristine lands to ORV users all up and down the I-5 Corridor as well as Canada who have no investment in protecting Whatcom County
- environmental destruction, including riding through salmon streams and degrading slopes;
- harm to wildlife, including the Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). The Department of Fish and Wildlife has declared parts of Whatcom County as critical habitat for the Marbled murrelet.

Allowing one motorized recreation to ruin the possibilities for others who are in the area because of noise and trash.

As a psychologist and Professor who taught at WWU for approximately 30 years, I particularly want to alert you to the well-documented *negative effects of noise, whether intermittent or continuous, on human and other animal health*. These negative effects include physical (cardiovascular and stress-induced hormone responses) and mental/emotional (a wide range, including anxiety, anger over unwanted noise, and depression).

In summary, I completely and adamantly oppose zoning amendment PLN 2018- 0004, to

allow motorized trails systems on DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County. It's also described as motorized trail development as part of the Bay to Baker Recreation Plan. Please stop this process of further consideration of the zoning amendment now.

I can't believe you guys are actually considering this making all DNR land into ORV parks. There goes all local hunting down the drain. Plus orv's will destroy the mountains you claim to be trying to conserve.

My husband was driving up on Sumas mtn a couple years ago when a dude on a quad came ripping around the corner, the guy flew off his quad and landed on my husbands windshield and broke it. He jumped on his quad and road off at 10,000mph and we got stuck with the bill for the windshield. They're not safe and don't have any respect for others trying to enjoy the mountain. If they want to ride they can go to the dunes or hannegan track or walker. This is ridiculous!!!!!!

I live in Bellingham. I oppose zoning amendment PLN 2018- 0004 to allow motorized trail systems in DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County.

The problem I see with this zoning is that the multitude of other users of DNR land will be subject to the noise and the damage the motorized vehicles do to trails, streams and the environment in general.

I have already heard from friends in the county that have had negative experiences with those using motorized vehicles on the land illegally. Litter, noise, and disregard for the land and others using the land.

I frankly don't see any upside.

I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County.

This help my family have a great time and get out in nature. Help my wife with her depression and my medical stuff makes our family happy and releases stress

I, along with the majority of my neighbors, are strongly opposed DNR's PLN 2018-0004 that proposes ORV trails on and around the Sumas and Red Mountains. This would require a zoning change that you are being asked to consider.

The fragile characteristic of this area is already being stressed with gravel trucks, logging trucks, and seasonal civilian traffic. We accept this traffic as "necessary" noise and pollution.

We don't see any benefits to this proposal, but we do see a lot of negatives. Here is a list of just what I can think of:

1. Disruption to the natural environment
People don't live or visit this area to hear ORVs all day and into the night
2. Displacement of wildlife
We see all sorts of transient wildlife with any new logging operation as their habitat is attacked
3. Noise pollution
This would destroy the very nature of this peaceful area
4. Degradation of the hillsides
No ORV is going stick to the trails; they will make their own
5. Physical pollution
Trash grows into kitchen garbage drops, discarded beds, couches, etc.
6. Potentially unsafe
Discharge of firearms near inhabited areas, absent use of spark arresters, fires, poor cell phone service
7. Maintenance and upkeep
8. Fallen trees, wash-outs (injuries become legal liabilities)
9. Vandalism issues
Illegal logging, vehicle ransacking in the parking lots Here's an example of what we'll end up having to with:

There are walking trails around the Peaceful/Paradise developments that have been taken over by ORVs. They have rendered those trails unsafe, filthy, and generally rundown. The ORVs have torn up these trails by making new trails wherever they choose. Pedestrians don't use these trails anymore as they are unsafe and strewn with trash and have become a home for transients.

There will very little economic impact besides the purchases of beer, chips, and gas.

The current zoning should remain as is, and not modified to accommodate special interest groups. Rezoning would forever alter the characteristic of this area to the negative.

Our neighbor perfectly expresses our concerns about the noise and impacts from off road vehicles. Please register our concern as well to this upcoming vote. Thank you for helping to protect the pristine beauty and peaceful ambiance of our local communities and natural areas.

Please note: This email is intended to reach the Whatcom County Council, the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services and the Department of Natural Resources including the Commissioner of Public Lands, Hillary Franz. It has additionally

been sent bcc to local residents who are both impacted by the proposed amendment to DNR land use and who may wish to render a strong opposition to this plan. It is my understanding that the intent is to consider amendments to current DNR policy that would allow the construction or expansion of ORV trail systems within our county.

Dear Reader,

I wish to register, *in the strongest possible terms*, my opposition to plans under consideration to develop and/or expand Off The Road Vehicle (ORV) trail systems in our county. As a 36-year resident of Rutsatz Road in the Foothills area of Whatcom County I have had all-to-frequent contact with the ORV abuse of both the Van Zandt Dike and other DNR holdings that include the fragile spawning channels of the Nooksack River's Middle Fork. Office Ron Whitehall, Jean Fike and Chris Hankey are all quite familiar with the frustration that we residents have felt over the abuse of this land; abuse that, while not exclusively caused by ORV use, certainly reflects its predictable destructive impact.

For those of us that value the tranquility, stability and incomparable resource this land offers for current and future county residents it strikes us as unconscionable that you would consider threatening such a resource with the noise, emissions, often surly attitude and destruction that accompanies this "sport". As a land steward for the Whatcom Land Trust I walk a property that directly adjoins DNR land in the aforementioned river channels. Officer Whitehall is well aware of the noise, emissions and damage done to this area by rogue ORVs. Dedicating new areas for their use will inevitably lead to more rogue behavior that expands that area. That expansion is inevitable and DNR will have scant resources to contain it.

Trucks and trailers will clog parking areas, off loading vehicles that are absolutely bred for speed and sound, driven frequently by young individuals who have arrived not for the tranquility of the forest but for the thrill of challenging their peers to more reckless behavior. And the footprint they leave will include containers of alcohol, debris, oil deposits and scattered wildlife. Hikers will begin avoiding the area, as will wildlife. This is an observed fact, observed countless times as we live across from the Dike. And DNR, as we are all aware, does not have the resources, staff or funding to manage that abuse. That is, as well, an unquestioned fact.

I will grant that my position is a bit strident. Yet it isn't a NIMBY response to the issue. I understand that logging and hunting, for instance, are part of the contract I make with my neighbors as we all share this resource, just as I understand the value that hikers and campers and bear, elk and deer attach to this peaceful

resource. It requires no imagination whatsoever to appreciate that ORVs are an unnatural, unnecessary and intrusive player in this game. We do not need to cater to every wayward interest group simply because they are loud or intimidating.

Please provide a response to this email and, if you've managed to reach this final line, thanks for your time. I do appreciate it.

I'm writing you an email to say that we need more offroad parks and in that list to vote would contain possibly camping motorcycles and any orv vehicle we do not need any more hiking trails if people would realize they don't need a trail to hike I'm a timber cutter and see more country in a week that would easily be accessible to hiking the orv community all ready pays alot of money in tabs that we can't use, only in walker valley which is the closest park we have to ride in and is not very big I could talk about this for along time but the revenue we would get in these small towns from more people buying gas and stopping at small restrauents to meet buying snacks and supplies would be great for the little towns you obviously see where my vote is going and I'm trying to be respectful about this in this but if all of us quit paying for tabs the state would see a big drop in income thanks for the time reading this

I am writing in response to the recent news about the proposed re-zoning of DNR land in Whatcom County to allow motorized use of all DNR land in the county as part of the developing Bay to Baker Recreation Plan. Although I understand the intention is not to open all DNR land, a re-zone will leave all of the DNR forests in Whatcom County open to pressure for extended motorized use. There are specific proposals (PLN2018-0004) to develop motorized use areas on one or more of the foothills (Red Mt. and/or Sumas Mt.). My family lives in the South Fork Valley very close to the Van Zandt Dike and we are familiar with all of the Foothills and walk often in the area.

I realize there must be responsible people who enjoy motorized recreation but I have to say that my experience in the Deming area has been to see frequent disregard for the private and public land and general abuse of the forest, roads and landings. Within just the past few years we witnessed a system of ORV trails built in the DNR and private forest off of Rutsatz Rd with trails through streams and garbage littering the area. (One of these trails crossed a part of our property.) In other cases, I have seen party sites where fires have been built, trees have been chopped down (for the fires), trash has accumulated & target shooting has left a mountain of empty shells. I'm sure this is not news to you, but it does serve to remind us of the possibilities for expanded misuse of our public lands.

Among the concerns above, we must also be aware of the increased danger of fires as our forests experience increased dryness each year. ORV's can spark a fire from their exhaust systems and of course there is the added danger of cigarettes, camp fires & fireworks. Where are the resources to address this hazard? DNR is stretched, as is the County – are we expecting an influx of dollars to monitor the vehicles and fire dangers?

I also wonder where are the resources to monitor motorized use in the Foothills in terms of noise pollution, emergency response, litter, law enforcement. Are we prepared to budget for sufficient officers to patrol the areas, provide emergency assistance and prevent wildfires?

And last, but not least, what about the disruption to the wildlife in the Foothills? There are many wild animals that would be disturbed by the noise, smells and habitat disruption of the forest. We have observed elk, bobcats, cougar, coyotes, deer, bear and many other smaller animals – a quiet and undisturbed forest gives these animals a chance in our crowded world.

So much of our world is accessible by motorized vehicles – let's keep our Foothills free of motors, noise, air pollution, fire danger and wildlife disruption. Our forests are our heritage and deserve to be carefully managed to minimize damage from recreational vehicles. Other forms of recreation - hikers, horses, etc - are much more compatible with growing timber. I urge DNR to review and withdraw the proposed zoning amendment to allow motorized vehicles on DNR lands in Whatcom County.

I am the owner of the Acme Diner and would like to voice my support for the Bellingham-Mt. Baker trail corridor.

Attached is a letter of support that I would like to have added to the public comments.

I am writing today on behalf of a group of locally owned businesses in Whatcom County, in particular the Acme Diner, as their Director of Community Relations. In February of 2015 I became acquainted with Daniel Probst and had the sincere pleasure of getting to know him as a leader and steward of an incredible vision. This vision involves creating a trail from Bellingham Bay to Mt. Baker and reviving an historic race. I was able to go up to the top of Stewart Mountain one evening last February to see where the trail would lead down into Acme. The view from the top of Stewart is stunning, truly a worthwhile hike and viewpoint.

During this excursion, I asked Daniel why he wanted to build this race and trail. His response was that he wants to leave something behind, and he knows that even if this race were to only last five years, the trail would be there forever. A trail like this would bring a new recreational opportunity to Whatcom County and allow residents and visitors greater access and appreciation of the beautiful place we call home.

The Acme Diner has been lucky enough to be geographically right in the middle of the proposed Bellingham Mount Baker

trail and from early on, we have supported Cascade Mountain Runners efforts to revive the Mt. Baker Marathon - we very much enjoy hosting the runners, providing food each year during the annual Mt. Baker Ultra Run, and cheering on and encouraging from the sidelines. We believe that this is something that brings community members together, creating pride and ownership for a beautiful recreational opportunity in the Acme Valley.

We sincerely hope that this project is strongly considered as a priority for Whatcom County. We welcome the tourism this trail would bring, and we see it as an incredible asset from which our businesses, our community, and our families and friends would benefit. If there is anything we can do to help, please know you have our full support.

If you are talking about getting an early jump on wildfires, I would suggest that you do not support ORV's on Sumas and Red Mountain as our summers are getting warmer and drier which increases the potential for fires. Allowing motorized vehicles including motorcycles without spark arrestors majorly puts these lands at risk including my land and house and many others who border DNR lands on these mountains. Why risk the damage and the trees for someones desire for a little fun?

REALLY? WAKE UP! There were over 100 wildfires in BC Canada last summer. Lets not see that happen in Washington state.

I'm a resident in Whatcom County. I'm a trail runner, I do not own or use ORV's.

I think that ORV'ers build many miles of trails that other user groups get to use (mountain bikers and trail runners) and provide a great service to the wilderness by providing access to it in areas that otherwise would not be accessible.

There is a movement opposed to ORV use and I wanted to voice that I am not opposed to the current level of ORV use that is in our area. I recognize that if use increases 10x or more that the trails may be less friendly to other user groups, however I think it's worth giving credit to them that w/o the work they have done the trails would not exist in the first place.

Whatever your decision is please do not limit use any further than current use and I think a limited expansion of ORV would be beneficial to other user groups who share the resources (wilderness).

I very much enjoy finding and exploring new trails and it's always exciting to see where they may lead.

I am writing to voice my support for off-road motorized vehicle use in Whatcom county working forests lands. Our family loves the outdoors and the opportunity to connect with that experience through ORV use in addition to hiking and cycling, would be wonderful. Skagit county's Walker Valley is the closest access we have and it shows how responsible OVR management is a possibility in our home county (Whatcom) as well. I know that the majority of our local ORV riders are positive people and would help to manage the lands on Sumas Mt. well with the DNR and reduce improper use of the area. Please keep us ORV enthusiasts in your plan proposals moving forward.

When I decided to buy a home, I bought out in the county. I enjoy all aspects of the outdoors. Mt. Biking, hiking, trying to find bigfoot, 4x4, shooting safely, and just sitting by the river. I think it is important to have the land opened up for recreational activities. I had the pleasure of volunteering on a clean up of Sumas Mountain this fall. I know one of the concerns is garbage and noise. People who enjoy the outdoors do not dump trash out there. We enjoy the beauty of nature. I have been to a couple of the trash clean up days with a 4x4 club and a Mt. bike club. It is a great community of like minded people, who will take a weekend of their time to clean up.

I am opposed to Zoning Amendment PLN 2018-0004 which would allow ORV/ATV access to the Bay to Baker Recreational area for multiple reasons: noise, pollution, destruction of the land, cost and maintenance and supervision issues, and poor geography to support ORV/ATV use are some of the issues. I have lived on Lake Whatcom in the 1980's and the noise of unregulated boating + water degradation was an issue. This is a similar issue for Whatcom County. The specialness of Whatcom County and why we choose to live here would be altered for the worse. The existing prohibition for ORV's on land zoned Commercial Forestry should be maintained and enforced. Who speaks for the animal and bird populations?

Listen kindly those requesting such an amendment, and quickly reject any condition supporting the use of ORV/ATV. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and service to the communities which would be adversely affected.

Rezoning DNR lands for ORV use is a really bad idea. Sadly, there has been a big push nationwide to rezone protected lands for ORV use. For example, the Magazine "Motorcyclist" featured an article about getting rid of the protected status for lands protected by the Antiquities Act and allowing ORV use a few months ago. As much as I love motorcycling, this is a horrible idea. Modern machines are more powerful, and capable, than ever before. Meaning that inexperienced riders, assholes, and of course inexperienced assholes, will destroy the protected land like never before. There are plenty of other spaces for them to use. Many of these spaces come with supervisors, etc. than can call for help if someone gets injured. So it's a better idea for them to play in established, monitored, areas anyway. Trust me. This is something I know for sure.

I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County, as it allows me to explore more of the beautiful outdoor areas that this state has to offer.

I am writing to state my opposition to implementing the zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004, to allow motorized trails systems on DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County. We live near Galbraith Mountain by the Galbraith Tree Farm which is non-motorized use only. We have lived here 36 years during the period when it was opened to motorized use. I can't remember the amount of times people pounded on our door in the middle of the night because they were stuck in the mud or ran out of gas or needed a ride because they were too drunk to drive. With cell phones, this may not be an issue but I am sure DNR land doesn't have the best service. The big issue was when someone tripped the sensor wires on the pipeline that traverses this area with their axle.

We have also travelled extensively throughout the West and have seen the destruction that ORVs create. They cut their own trails causing erosion, drive over berms blocking roads built to protect recovering areas, leave garbage and like to shoot their guns indiscriminately. They have brought desert wildflowers to the brink of extinction in Utah. Admittedly, there are some user groups who are now beginning to police their members but not all riders belong to groups.

We have salmon who are struggling to survive. Open up these DNR lands to ORV use and they will cross streams and wetlands for their "mudding". Logging operations have to follow strict rules on DNR lands. They are usually in compliance and DNR personnel check up on them. Will there be rules for ORVs and will there be enforcement? Consider the conflicts logging activity and ORV use will create.

Fires? When motorized use was allowed on the Galbraith area, someone started a fire with fireworks which endangered homes and wildlife. Also, when the 40 acres across the road was being developed, a glass shard and dry leaves started a fire. Partiers bring fireworks, liquor and beer bottles which they tend to shoot. Ask me how i know having seen the leftovers from our travels and on Galbraith.

And, did I mention the noise and fumes? Please consider the neighbors and wildlife. And, who is responsible for accidents? The county, the state? Lawyers always find the deepest pockets.

I am a life long Whatcom County resident. I am also a 5th generation native whose grandmother would spear salmon for dinner at Big Beef Creek in Kitsap county. Please give these and other points some serious consideration. Thank-you for your service.

I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County and other counties around the state.

Going four wheeling out in the woods is therapeutic for me. It is a great way to have fun and spend time with friends.

It allows me to enjoy the great outdoors. And challenge myself in my jeep.

It allows me to give back to the many wonderful resources my state has to offer.

It allows me to volunteer my time to clean the forest so others can enjoy the 4x4 trails as much as I do.

I am writing to oppose zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004 and any motorized trail development in the Bay to Baker recreational plan. It is vital that we protect and hold onto the elements of Whatcom County that make it such a beautiful and healthy place to live. We must ensure protection of wildlife, flora and fauna, as well as quiet spaces and places. There is more than enough noise already. Mt. Baker Highway is loud with trucks and Harleys. There are fewer and fewer places to find the quiet.

We do not need to add anything to the environment that could affect environmental protection and erosion and landslide control.

One of the reasons I live here is so that I can travel a relatively short distance to enjoy the sounds of nature and have a direct reminder of why it is so important to live as lightly as possible upon the earth. Sound travels, and impacts so much. Altering the terrain also has a negative effect on all surrounds.

Please do the right thing and deny this amendment. Your grandchildren and great- grandchildren will be grateful.

I am writing this to protest the proposed extensive increase of ORV use on DNR lands. Your own surveys tell you that the public at large greatly prefers quieter activities such as camping and hiking in the DNR's forested areas! A vocal minority is jockeying for use which has been shown to be significantly environmentally impactful, a use that you own office argued against two decades ago. It is even more of an issue now, especially as we enter an era of increased risk from forest fires--sparks from vehicles, heavy cigarette use and unauthorized campfires in farflung places could all contribute to a risk we might not be able to contain. The personal difficulty that I have with such use is the tremendous noise pollution it generates. I challenge a member of the committee deciding such things to camp on DNR lands where ORV are currently allowed and not suffer disturbances from the 'gangs' of ORV's that roar up and down our precious 'echo canyons.' This is hard not only on year round residents, but it discourages people who come from out of the area to enjoy our beautiful forested areas.

Please consider carefully, and re-read the documents detailing your opposition to this measure in the past. It was a wise choice then, and remains the best choice for the future of the northeast corner of Whatcom County now.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I am in strong support of motorized recreation in Whatcom County. Pick some of these fun lines:

I am member of a local jeeping club who enjoys not just our off roading opportunities, but support the local economies near the available off road areas. We always tread lightly, and go out of our way to assist none members in obeying trail signs and respecting the areas we have open to us. we hand out trash bags to our members and make sure the area is cleaner than we found it after each trip. We donate uncountable hours to help other recreation areas maintain quality trails and ecological stability and will certainly help in Whatcom County.

Opening a new recreation area will provide more access, and reduced impact on already available areas, creating a win win for everyone involved.

Just want to express the need to represent all interests on this project. The present committee is not a good representation of those who will be affected by changes. I am not at all in favor of the proposal. There are not enough public lands left undisturbed by development, noise pollution or human over use by motorized vehicles.

Please save this site for our future generations to have a place to experience nature undisturbed!!!

What a fabulous turnout at Mt Baker High School Library!

Such eloquent public comments from so many local people! If you weren't able to attend, please come to the next public meeting (below). It was really thrilling to see so many speak with such a single voice. My guess is that in excess of 100 people attended with perhaps 30 making comments. Several factors surfaced that left a rather chilling concern that, in spite of DNR's effort to frame the issue as still undecided, the playing field has been tilted from the beginning in favor of the ORV parks on top of Sumas Mt. and adjacent to Silver Lake Park, to wit:

1. Jean Fike, our region manager, has ALREADY filed an Application for Suggested Zoning Amendment with WC Planning and Development, not the behavior of someone who tells us that this process is, at this point, simply gathering information and public comment. Her, and DNR's position is not impartial. Her phone number is: 360-856-3500, 360-630-1365 (cell). Call her. While your at it, you can mention (2) that follows.
2. The committee that apparently stands behind this bit of genius thinking is composed of 17 members. 6 are from either motorcycle clubs (2 from the very same one: Mt. Baker Motorcycle Club!!), dirt bike groups, 4x4 clubs and road building interests. Only 2 hiking groups and only 2 women. No bird watcher, photographers, local and unaffiliated people, no one living near the proposed areas. In short, it's weighted toward special interests, not necessarily even from our county.
3. Also behind this bit of brilliance is a survey they claim give them authority to proceed. It was conducted online for one month at the DNR site. Bet you didn't know about it, did you? Well the committee members did, you can rest assured. And, because it wasn't scientific but rather open to abuse by folks gaming the response, it netted 1600 replies of which 11% (that's about 170 folks statewide) expressed support for the ORV fiasco. They apparently took that 11% and, in an act of magical extrapolation, argued that 11% of the 7 million inhabitants of our state wanted ORV parks. It boggles the mind.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO NEXT:

1. Call each and every county council member today. The council can kill this with a single blow. I spoke with Satpal Sidhu yesterday and he said he has received over 500 emails, phone calls and letters and NOT ONE in his memory expressed support. We need to overwhelm them with opposition. Here are the numbers:
Tmothy Ballew 360-778-5024
Barbara Brenner 360-384-2762
Rud Browne 360-820-9494
Barry Buchanan 360-224-4330
Todd Donovan 360-483-8474
Tyler Byrd (just when we needed Rebecca Boonstra...sigh...) 360-778-5021 Satpal Sidhu 360-305-4948
2. Call Jean Fike (360-856-3500, 360-630-1365 (cell)). Nothing will change on her end, but it will be a satisfying opportunity to comment on how poorly this is being handled.
3. Email a public comment to DNR at this email: bakertobellingham@[dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bakertobellingham@dnr.wa.gov). I'm ccing this email. Feel free to use this as talking points. Or mention loss of property values, noise and debris, difficulty of 911 response, lack or representation for women and locals on the committee ([here are the members](#), judge for yourself), whatever represents your particular concern.

4. Come to all public meetings, you'll have a ball and see so many of your friends and neighbors. You'll leave energized for action. Here is the lineup:

6 to 8:30 p.m.,
February 20, 2018
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center 8251 Kendall Road
Maple Falls, WA

6 to 8:30 p.m.,
February 21, 2018
Port of Bellingham Cruise Terminal in the Dome Room 355 Harris Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225

6 - 9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13 Acme Elementary School 5200 Turkington Road
Acme, WA 98220

6 to 8:30 p.m.,
February 21, 2018
Port of Bellingham Cruise Terminal in the Dome Room 355 Harris Ave
Bellingham, WA 98225

You are such a wonderful bunch of friends and neighbors. Forward this (but use bcc) with impunity. Don't you just love living here!

I am a resident of Bellingham, Whatcom County. I also own property in Acme that butts up against DNR forest land.

I am writing to OPPOSE any proposed zoning amendments to allow motorized trail systems on state owned commercial forest lands in Whatcom County.

I have hiked the trails in Whatcom County over the past 25 plus years, and have enjoyed the peace and serenity gained by stepping away from the city and in to the forest to clear my mind and be a part of the natural world.

Allowing ORV's on DNR lands would ruin the quiet, disrupt nature, destroy habitat, threaten wildlife, increase the wild fire risk, pollute the air with exhaust emissions and potentially litter our forest lands with more trash.

Already burdened EMS, law enforcement and volunteer firefighters would be affected, and enforcement and regulation of those ORV areas would be difficult.

Property owners who live next to or close to these DNR lands, who have the right to safety, relaxation, privacy, and quiet in their homes would be adversely affected by noise, increased fire risk, trash, disruption of wildlife, exhaust pollution and potential trespass onto private lands by ORV users.

I urge you to NOT amend zoning to allow ORV's on DNR lands.

I am adamantly opposed to any rezoning to allow for motorized ORV trails on Whatcom County forest lands. Those of us who live here are here because of the natural beauty, which is disrupted by the noise, the fumes, the traffic, and the

altered landscape - everything the wilderness lets us escape - that come with motorized ORV trails. The accompanying risk of fire during our extremely dry summers, in remote areas difficult for firefighters to reach, is too great a danger to accept. Let those who want to experience the great outdoors do so quietly, without disrupting one another, and leaving little trace.

PLN 2018-0004 is a bad idea, and should not even be considered.

Please, I do not want this sight coming at me and the resulting noise, stink, ruts, and damage to plants and water that will follow.

Please DO NOT amend our county code which currently bans all motorized vehicles from county trails. As a resident of the east county for nearly 50 years I have seen first-hand what ORVs and ATVs bring: noise, traffic, garbage (including human waste and toilet paper on the ground), muddy runoff that destroys salmon habitat, and many risky behaviors. Not only am I personally invested in my rural community, but my family and I are financially invested in our property. Land values near ORV trails decrease. Plain and simple. The ORV users account for a very small segment of the population and their right to HAVE FUN is not more important than my property rights.

If ORV users are allowed to go off-road on Whatcom County public lands then most non-motorized users will simply stop showing up. Much more financial income is generated from non-motorized tourism and recreation than ORVs. I have attached a very informative fact sheet from 2015 that quantifies the economic impact of outdoor recreation in Washington State, and shows economic contributions of outdoor recreation in all counties for that year. On page 4 of the report is "Participation and Expenditures by Activity". Guess what? Off-Roading for Recreation provides just 5.5% of the Total Economic Contribution of all forms of recreation in our state. It's not an economic driver.

When we weigh the alleged benefits against the many, many, many drawbacks, it seems like a clear and logical choice to NOT allow motorized vehicles on county trails. I absolutely oppose zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004, which would allow motorized trail systems on DNR commercial forest land in Whatcom County.

Hello! As an avid motorcyclist and mountain biker I wanted to give my input for what it's worth on the available options right now.

I would be very supportive of options A or option E

I am writing to express my opposition to a possible rezone by the County to allow ORV use on our public lands. Many people were not aware that the DNR process to allow more recreation on our public lands included ORV use. The people who live in the foothills are deeply concerned about how this will impact their communities. The potential impacts such as increased run off, noise pollution, air pollution, wildlife disturbance, increased traffic, far outweighs any economic benefits. An ORV park will bring many ORV recreationists from other areas. I have lived in other areas where this type of recreation has been allowed on public lands. I formally lived in Chattanooga TN where ORV use was allowed on our local state lands. During rain events sediment would run out from these areas creating a large silt plume in the TN River

that could be seen in satellite imaging. This user, particularly motorcycles already trespass on our local public lands and private lands. Just last year I discovered a motorbike trail that had been carved up the side of the slope leading to Lily and Lizard Lake. The illegal trail was quickly shutdown by the DNR. I have alerted the County Parks on several occasions when I have spotted motorcycle tracks on our trail systems in the Chuckanuts and within the new Whatcom Lake Park. How can we expect these user groups to self police when already they self admit to their "Hide and ride" culture. Currently the DNR has offered several plans which include allowing ORV use on Red Mountain, above Silver Lake, as well as Sumas Mountain. I have attended many of the DNR planning meetings and the room is overwhelmingly motorized users or their allies.

PLEASE REJECT THE DNR PROPOSAL FOR A
ZONING AMMENDMENT ALLOWING ORV USE ON STATE FOREST LANDS IN OUR COUNTY.

Please Contact me for further information. I am happy to forward letters written by well informed citizens from the foothills region.

I live in Bellingham by choice as do my 2 married children and 3 grandchildren. I am writing this email to let you know of my opposition to zoning amendment PLN2018-0004.

Over my lifespan I have been an avid outdoors recreation enthusiast and participant. During this time I have noticed the general disregard for all aspects of the environment where motorized vehicles such as ATV are allowed, in particular the degradation of the land and pollution.

Whatcom County is known as a jewel of the Pacific Northwest for the beauty of it's natural resources that invite nature lovers and outdoor sport enthusiasts to participate and encourage outdoor activities that appreciate and protect it's uniqueness.

My concerns for Whatcom County exceed the physical and environmental degradation that would ensue should motorized trail systems be allowed on DNR commercial forest land. This 'high risk' sport would require untold infrastructures to these forest areas that would increase traffic and negatively impact road conditions all through the Columbia Valley. It would also require EMS and Law Enforcement presence, and likely sanitation facilities to name a few services that taxes would have cover.

Please don't allow this use of DNR commercial property to become another divisive 'battlefront' for the sacredness of the land, environment and the living creatures that call the Columbia Valley in particular and Whatcom County in general, home.

OPPOSE PLN 2018-0004

Dear members of Whatcom county council and Planning officials and DNR staff,
I strongly disapprove of the proposal to allow off road vehicles on DNR logging land.
As a resident for more than 25 years on Northfork rd. I personally saw and heard the damage off road vehicles cause. there was a reason that the use area was shut down years ago (I don't recall the year). the trash, erosion, noise and traffic was damaging to wild life and the quality of living in a rural community. I would be working in my garden and hear dirt bikes and other ORV's engines roaring and it also brought more gun fire. I plan to return to the Northfork valley when I retire in a few years. People who live there do so for the quiet life and not a noisy park.

My wife and I own a small Certified Organic farm on the North Fork of the Nooksack River near the Welcome Bridge, famous to Eagle watchers and photographers from all over the United States. We also host a small farmstay cottage for birdwatchers, skiers, hikers and guests who want to visit and see an organic farm and enjoy the wilderness around Mt. Baker and the beautiful Nooksack River. The overwhelming response from our guests revolves around the quiet and the natural sanctuary that the farm and the natural environment here bring to their lives. This is a precious blessing for those who cannot find this

relief in their lives in the city. It is also the reason we came here and the environment we have chosen to be good stewards of.

This past winter we saw the failure of the return of the Pinks, the Coho, and the Chum salmon to their ancestral spawning grounds. Consequently, the eagles never gathered in their historic numbers near the Welcome Bridge. Deer, bear, bobcat and cougar sightings are down from previous years as well. We lost guests because of the smoke from summer fires and the normally clear North Fork of the Nooksack River was muddy for significant portions of the year. These are all major signals that the wild-land habitat and the river are in a state of extreme degradation.

There is a reason that people choose motorized vehicles. It gets them somewhere faster and it provides access to more places for more people. It also inevitably influences and changes everything around us. I'd like to get those changes said in a single sentence so I can get to what I feel is the main point. Increases in noise, fires, trash, erosion, river-water quality, habitat destruction, impacts to hikers, mountain bikers, wildlife, rural residents, and the loss of the natural sanctuary that is now so rare in our country; all these will increase. Impact studies surrounding ORV's are available on the web.

(<https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/road-use-motorized-vehicles>). They all point to a substantial increase in the factors that are causing the degradation of the Mt. Baker wilderness and the Nooksack and Skagit waterways.

It may seem that opening the County to ORV use is minor in the scale of the changes that are occurring in the environment, but every small decision that compromises the integrity of the wild environment takes its toll. The only question that remains is if there is still a way back to the health of the fabulous environment that we have been blessed with here. And whether we have the wisdom and the will not to say ok to everything that we can do.

We ask you to take a close look at the enduring value of the treasure in our backyards and choose to make the health and preservation of this treasure a primary factor in your decision making process. Please decline the use of ORV's in the County's recreation plan.

I'm writing to encourage you to keep motorized recreation in your Baker to Bellingham plans. We already have half the States forest lands in wilderness for the people that only want to hike. Motorized use is growing rapidly but we keep loosing more land to closures. Our population is aging and us older folks can't hike but still love the mountains.

Please DO NOT amend our county code which currently bans all motorized vehicles from county trails.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed ORV rules that will allow greater ORV access on State Forest Lands. These lands are not just for the use of one special interest group. They should be shared and preserved for all people and the wildlife that live there. The loud and aggressive nature of ORV use makes any land that they are using not an option for others to recreate in and certainly is detrimental to any nearby wildlife. I strongly oppose any increased ORV access on a shared public resource.

I would look forward to more trails in WA. I can't hike like I used to and motorized recreation has filled the gap for me. I know of many disabled folks who also participate in our states great out doors in this manor. As a jeep club member I actively participate in trail maintenance which helps keep recreation open and clean.

I have also have helped out more than one lost hiker who got them selves in a bind. In short, I fully support motorized

recreation in Whatcom County.

I live on the Mt. Baker Hwy, between Kendall and Maple Falls, WA. I oppose the zoning amendment PLN 2018-0004.

- I am concerned about the added cost and use of the county sheriff staff and need for EMS services.

- I am concerned about the added noise that will be generated from this recreation so close to local homes.
- I am concerned about the deterioration to land and water ecology.
- I am concerned about the fire danger that will be threatened by the possible spark emissions during our dry summer/fall months.
- I am concerned about the lack of sufficient monitoring and rule enforcement.

I already live in an area where illegal burning and use of fire arms are inadequately monitored and enforced and this added burden of off road vehicle trails is a serious threat of the idea of country living: that is peace and quiet and preserved nature.

Please keep our trails protected for wildlife and natural beauty. Motorized access to trails is much more intensive on the land and environment.

Will you please advise if there will be public input during the working DNR meetings of Feb.13th.

It's my understanding that Whatcom County is considering allowing Off Road Vehicles to be legally operated on any DNR land in the County. I am writing to express my opposition to this proposal.

It would be irresponsible to allow this activity at a time when it's already a struggle for public resources to properly maintain roads and trails on the public lands. ORV traffic, if allowed everywhere, would increase the need for maintenance of public lands and I do not believe this is a good use of public resources. I am not opposed to properly siting a specific area in the County for ORV use, provided proper public input is considered, and this would focus and minimize the need for public funding for maintenance.

Additionally, while there are certainly many responsible ORV users, I have personally witnessed very disrespectful behavior by some ORV users. Examples of poor behavior that I have seen evidence of include driving in streams and leaving motor oil and other damaging litter in improper locations. ORV use also brings an increased risk of fire. Allowing this activity on all DNR lands would increase damages to public lands.

I believe the Whatcom County Council has more important issues to focus on. Please do not bring the issue of rezoning DNR land for ORV use onto your docket for the 2018 calendar year.

Thank you for considering this request.

RE: Rejection of DNR's Proposed Re-Zone Amendment PLN 2018-0004.

On behalf of the great majority of Whatcom County residents I urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote NOT to docket the proposed Zoning Amendment PLN 2018- 0004.

The request by Washington's Department of Natural Resources to open forest habitat in Whatcom County to all types of dirt bikes, quads, 4x4 mud trucks and other modes of motorized All Terrain Vehicles ("ATVs") is an unwise, ill-conceived and seriously damaging proposal would have a severe impact on the environment of Whatcom County. Not only would there be adverse effects on fish, wildlife, birds, and vegetation but there would also be impacts on humans in the form of noise pollution, stream run-off contamination, potential arsenic contamination both in stream run-off and in dust from ATV usage and a loss of use to any other outdoor enthusiasts with potential interest in using the area.

I live in the mountains above Lake Samish and we have had direct experience with ATVs currently and in the past. The area near my residence is owned by Bloedel and adjoins Blanchard Mountain. ATVs are prohibited from using this area. However, in

the 24 years I have lived here there has been a constant battle against the ATVs by Bloedel and DNR in an attempt to keep them out of the area. This includes signs, barriers, more signs and more barriers. ORVs have consistently ignored the signs, created new paths around barriers and wreaked havoc to the trails and roads in the area.

Established hiking and horse trails have been eroded away and new trails created where there were no existing trails. I have seen the streams muddied by the ATVs purposely driving in the streams and the noise, especially on the weekends can be deafening. The damage has been exacerbated by the high amounts of rainfall we receive. An average of 72 inches, twice that of Bellingham. Sumas and Red Mountains also receive high amounts of rainfall as well as steep slopes and I would anticipate even more problems in regards to erosion, new trail creation and other damage that has been experienced by the operation of ATVs in other areas. There has also been the issue of shooting by ATV operators in close proximity to the houses adjacent to the area.

The proposed opening of DNR lands to motorized ATVs in the Red and Sumas Mountain would be a direct violation of current County land use regulations which prohibit motorized trails on any lands zoned for commercial forestry. They are not allowed for in the comprehensive plan for good reason. There is a long history of

damage to the environment from ATVs. The proposal is also not consistent with the Growth Management Act and with the procedural requirements for changing zoning.

This proposal is also NOT about providing recreation opportunities for local Whatcom County residents and families. It is almost entirely about creating several new destination Off Road/ATV Machine facilities that will be used in overwhelming numbers by non-residents bringing their Off Road/ATV machines from all over the state and from British Columbia. The impetus for the ATV parks also seems to be orchestrated by out of county ATV enthusiasts.

Both of the proposed maps overlay identified Marbled Murrelet Habitat. The Marbled Murrelet is federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species in Washington and California and has just been listed as an endangered species by the State of Oregon. This remarkable bird is State-listed as threatened in Washington. This specific area is critical habitat for this important species. Ironically, another division of the DNR is considering this same forested land as "critical habitat" for the threatened Marbled Murrelet!

The potential for fires will also be increased by ATV usage. The effect of the changing climate on our area has led to much drier summers than experienced in the past.

People do not believe that we are in a fire prone area. However, there were two fires in the Blanchard Mountain – Galbraith Mountain area last year that required large scale fire suppression. This is not hypothetical!

Finally, who will police the area? The DNR and Whatcom County Sheriff's Dept. do not have the resources to monitor the large number of ATV users that will be attracted to the area from the Seattle and Vancouver areas.

In closing, I implore the council not to consider this proposal. It would be a waste of precious resources and for good reason has not been considered in the past.

I have sent a this letter to the Whatcom County Council stating my opposition to the proposal for ATV parks in the Sumas and Red Mountain areas. I would also like to submit it as a comment to the DNR in opposition.

I write to express my strong objection to opening DNR forest lands to ORVs, even in regulated areas, due to increased likelihood of fires.

We live in the forest on Sumas Mountain near DNR land. We hold our breath all summer, praying that no fires are started by people illegally roaming the logging roads. We have personally chased numerous trespassers off our private road who have ignored our No Trespassing signs and gone to the woods to shoot guns, build campfires, ride their ATVs, and even blow off fireworks--Sometimes during a burn ban. It truly terrifies us. Regulations do not stop some people from doing careless and dangerous things.

If you permit ORVs to these tinder dry forests, hugely increasing the number of people in the forests in our hot rainless summers, one of those people is going to toss a cigarette or blow off some fireworks and start a fire--It is just inevitable. That fire could be impossible to contain and could destroy people lives and cause vast losses to the forest industry. We saw the horrors in California. We could easily be next.

Please do not consider this move. It poses a real threat to we who live on Sumas and to the forest resources around us. You would put us at grave risk, given the dry summers we have had year after year. Chances of fires would increase a hundredfold with this many new visitors.

Please protect us and our forests and do not open up these lands to ORVs. Find safer venues for these folks--like open lands without fire risks, or dirt parks.

I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County.

From my experience this past year, our group of people actually leave the area better than when we arrive. We pick up trash if seen. During summer months, we all carry fire extinguishers and I have actually seen one used on a campsite fire during a burn ban when careless campfires.

This is a way for my family and friends to enjoy the outdoors. It is very spiritual for me. I enjoy feeling like I am being a part of the surroundings.

There are many natural resources that are being stripped away and sold for development, drilling, and just sold for pure greed of money. The human race AND the flora and fauna are all suffering because of this. Let's keep recreation areas open as recreation areas.

I don't mind paying fees! I understand the need for funding. I would also support paying more to have some enforcement in place to the few unthinking humans who do not appreciate our beautiful area of the country.

Please keep recreation areas open to motorized recreation.

I live in Whatcom County. I am apposed to the proposed ORV park on Sumas Mountain. I hike throughout the foothills and motorized vehicles in the forest cannot coexist with hiking. I have lived in the county since 1971 and until recently I lived on Mosquito Lake Road in the foothills. Native wildlife and established trails are delicate and can be permanently disturbed by ORV's.

I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County. Pick some of these fun lines:

As a member of a prominent Jeep Club in the area, Around the Sound Jeep Club, we responsibly enjoy off road areas.

Regular presence in these areas by organized, environmentally conscious, individuals serves to keep them maintained and monitored for damage or degrading conditions from any cause.

We donate hundreds of hours to help other recreation areas to (maintain ADA access, water quality, road maintenance, sign maintenance, etc..) and will certainly help in Whatcom County.

My experience with other organizations like Ducks Unlimited and others is that many times the people that have an interest in recreational use of land are some of the biggest contributors to protecting it and keeping it healthy, clean, and accessible to all

users.

I have only recently become aware of this project, which has apparently been in the works for quite some time, but most of the outdoor enthusiasts I know have not heard of it. When 6 positions of the 17 member planning committee are taken by members of motorized vehicle clubs, it should come as no surprise that the lion's share of comments come from ORV proponents, mobilized by their planning committee members---this seems highly unethical.

In fact, ALL members of the planning committee are members of clubs. This is significant, because most of the folks I know don't go to the forest in packs, they go alone or with one or two friends, and this greatly skews the perceived desire for things commonly referred to as "improvements."

Also worth noting, the only people ORVs don't bother are ORV users. Pretty much everyone else hates them and the destruction they cause; its not what you want to encounter when you go outside.

As this committee is NOT reflective of the people of Whatcom County, I sincerely hope the DNR will keep their recommendations in perspective.

Please, no ORV parks/trails on DNR land.